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the Colinian

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Career and Technical Graduates Driving the State's Workforce

the Colinian

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or students.

Alumni of the Year Honored at Homecoming, page 3

Chapter plans princess ball page 7

Scenes From Homecoming 2016, pages 8-11

Career/Tech graduates excelling page 14-15

Tracking the classes, page 20

ON THE COVER: The Career/Technical Division purchased an 18-wheeler semi-truck through TAACCCT grant funds. The trailer is used by various departments at the college.

The Colinian is printed as a service through the Offices of Public Information and Alumni Affairs and is mailed to members and friends of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191, 601.643.8313.

Graphic design by Jimmie Cain.

From the President | Dr. Ronald E. Nettles

Our mission as a college is very broad and ranges from providing GED instruction to preparing our students to transfer to a university. Additionally, our career, technical, and workforce education program instructors work very hard to prepare our students to enter the world of work. With those goals in mind, we have several new programs at Co-Lin this year that I am very excited about and I believe will have a positive impact on the communities we serve.

First, Co-Lin's Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training or MI-BEST program is an extension of a program we piloted at Co-Lin three years ago. MI-BEST integrates adult basic education and high school equivalency attainment with career and technical training. Participants have opportunities to earn the credentials they need for a career and are able to transition into the workforce at a much faster rate.

Our first MI-BEST class this fall included 30 participants and our initial results have been very positive. The retention rate of these students is excellent and several of the students have already completed their GED and are progressing toward getting a certification or diploma in one of five career and technical programs.

We also have several other career and technical programs that have seen significant upgrades in equipment as a result of federal, state and foundation grants. In the past five years we have invested almost $2 million in new training equipment. Sources of funding have included the Kellogg Foundation, Department of Labor TAACCCT funds, and Mississippi Workforce grants. These funds have allowed us to purchase a new commercial truck driving truck, upgrade new computer labs, and purchase state of the art tools and equipment in auto mechanics, precision machining.

Dr. Nettles and family

In summary, Co-Lin's mission to improve our community workforce is very important and is supported by a dedicated group of instructors that rarely get the recognition they deserve. Most importantly, the efforts of our Career, Technical and Workforce Division will impact the future of our students in a very positive way for many years. That is what helps make Co-Lin "The Place to Be."

Ronald E. Nettles

Letter from the Executive Director | DJ Preiss

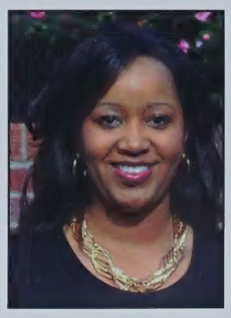
DJ and family

As I approach the one-year anniversary as your executive director of the Foundation and director of Alumni Affairs, I can hardly believe how time has flown by. This past year confirmed for me just how special Co-Lin is. I have had the opportunity to interact with outstanding alumni, generous community partners, dedicated faculty/staff and amazing students. Each member of that group is a vital part of what makes us a successful place and a model for our peer institutions to aspire to be. Please enjoy this issue of the Colinian. I know many of you look forward to receiving this issue to look back on our Homecoming festivities in October. Hopefully we were able to portray just how wonderful that weekend was. I hope to see you on campus again soon.

Sincerely,

DJ Preiss

Alumni Association elects new officers


Hough

Lea

Douglas

Brandi Irvin Hough ('05) of Biloxi has been elected as president of the Alumni Association. Joining her as vice president is Deborah Lea ('76) of Monticello, and Bobo Douglas ('03) of Wesson as secretary.

Hough received a bachelor's degree in business from The University of Southern Mississippi and a master's in business administration from Belhaven University. She is the director of business development at the Harrison County Development Commission. She is married to Trey Hough and they have a 10-month-old baby boy, Dawson.

Lea holds associate's degrees from Co-Lin and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland University College. She is retired from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service with 25 years of service and currently serves as director of administration for the town of Monticello. She is married to her college sweetheart, Timothy Lea, and they have a son, Matthew and a granddaughter, Emma.

Douglas received a bachelor's degree in human performance & recreation from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in education from Alcorn State University. He has completed additional study at Mississippi State University. He is a teacher and coaches soccer and golf at Wesson High School. He is married to the former Jade Hess and they have a two-year-old daughter, Tinley.

Athletic Alumni Chapter

Chris Calcote ('71) has been elected as president of the Athletic Alumni Chapter. He will be joined by Mike Jones ('75) as vice-president and J. Ronny Smith ('66) as secretary. Troy C. Greer ('58), Curtis McMillan ('60), and Tim Waldon ('81) were elected to serve as board members for the organization.

All former Co-Lin athletes and coaches are considered members of the athletic alumni association. The group meets twice annually and selects members for the college Sports Hall of Fame.

Band/Colette Chapter

Jerry Wilkinson ('60) has been elected as president of the Band and Colette Alumni Chapter. He will be joined by Pam Roberts ('74) as vice president and Angela Smith ('94) as secretary.

Any band member, Colette, or auxiliary band member is invited to join the chapter. The group meets quarterly and participates in fundraisers and functions related to the Co-Lin band.

For information on becoming involved with either of these groups or to help create a new alumni chapter, contact the alumni office at 601-643-8498.

Letter to Alumni and Friends | Brandi Irvin Hough

As I begin the first year of my two-year term as president of the Co-Lin Alumni Association, I am again pleased and honored to represent those who have attended or are graduates of Co-Lin. As a former graduate I know the limitless opportunities that a Co-Lin degree affords to former and current students. The pride we have in our institution can only be magnified by showing unwavering support of the college and its current administration. As president of the Co-Lin Alumni Association, I promise to provide a 100% effort towards the fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities of my appointed position.

Joining me as officers this year are Deborah Lea as vice president and BoBo Douglas as secretary.

It is great to be able to give back to Co-Lin and it is my desire to help strengthen the bond of our alumni. Therefore, it is important to keep our alumni and friends of the college connected to the alumni association. There are many ways to do so. You can follow the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/CoLinAlumni, the Co-Lin webpage http://www.colin.edu/alumni, Twitter @CoLinAlumni or by a simple phone call to the alumni office at 601-643-8313.

We all have great reason to be proud of Co-Lin and its traditions. I invite all alumni to increase your participation and support by joining the alumni association, and by sending us your feedback and suggestions. Your input is very important to help us carry forward and to help engage others.

I look forward to the year ahead and connecting with as many of you as possible.

Sincerely,
Brandi Irvin Hough
Class of '05

Alumni Association | Alumni of the Year

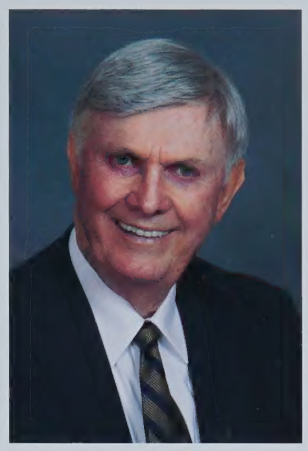
Dr. James M. Ewing, Jr. of Gainesville, Georgia and Diane Weaver Blankenhorn of Madison were honored as Alumni of the Year at Homecoming on Oct. 22. The selection is made by a committee of alumni from throughout Co-Lin's district after accepting nominations from the alumni body.

Dr. James M. Ewing, Jr.

Ewing is a 1952 graduate of Co-Lin Agricultural High School and a 1954 graduate of the College. He grew up on the campus of Co-Lin as his father, Dr. James M. Ewing, Sr. served as president from 1932-1956. After Co-Lin, Ewing attended the University of Mississippi, where he received bachelor's and master's degrees, and the University of Southern Mississippi, where he received a Ph.D.

He spent the early years of his career teaching high school English, followed by 30 years of teaching at the university level, serving as an English professor at Brenau University for two years, and the University of North Georgia for the last 28 years of his career.

He has been involved in numerous community organizations such as the Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, and has been a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church. He is a founder of the Theta Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of North Georgia, and was awarded the fraternity's outstanding chapter advisor award in 1992. He was inducted into the Order of Constantine, Sigma Chi's highest recognition of service to the fraternity.



Ewing

Ewing is a life member of the Alumni Association and was inducted into the Co-Lin Foundation Hall of Fame in 2007. He is married to the former Ellen Castleberry, and they have three children, David, Margaret Ellen, and Gary, and seven grandchildren.

Diane Weaver Blankenhorn

Blankenhorn

Blankenhorn is a 1950 graduate of Co-Lin Agricultural High School, and a 1952 graduate of the college where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a head Colette. After Co-Lin, she received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She has spent a lifetime as a volunteer in her community and in the Presbyterian Church, where she has served as an elder, church school teacher and librarian, moderator and president of both local and state-wide Presbyterian Women organizations, two-time chair of the Christian education and congregational care committees, and was a Christian education consultant for the national Presbyterian Church. She has also served on the board of directors for the Mississippi Boychoir for nine years, and served as chair for seven years.

Blankenhorn is married to her Co-Lin sweetheart, David, and they have two sons, David G. Blankenhorn, III and wife, Raina, and J. Robert Blankenhorn and wife, Melinda, and five grandchildren.

Alumni Spotlight

Chris Hooper ('06) is co-owner of Engravables and Southern Style retail stores in Brookhaven. He is a graduate of Mississippi College with a bachelor's degree in marketing and also earned a certificate from Mississippi College in accounting. He is a member of the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Retail Committee and Monograms America Board of Directors. He was chosen as one of the Top 20 under 40 by Daily Leader in 2016.

Alumni Association | Sports Hall of Fame inducts four new members

The Copiah-Lincoln Community College Athletic Alumni Chapter inducted four members into its Sports Hall of Fame during their annual meeting at Homecoming. Those honored were David Britt of Brandon, Earl Coleman (deceased) of Pontotoc, Mindy Livaudais of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Steve Sasser of Bogue Chitto.

From left, Matt Coleman on behalf of the late Earl Coleman, Steve Sasser, David Britt and Mindy Livaudais.

David Britt

Britt is a 1951 graduate of Co-Lin where he was a two-year letterman in basketball and led the Wolves to a state championship. After Co-Lin, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served in Korea. He was selected for the Air Force All-Star traveling team. After his time in the military, he signed a basketball scholarship with Mississippi College, where he was a leading scorer and received bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

He began his high school coaching career in 1961 at Raleigh High School coaching both boys and girls basketball teams. He went on to coach basketball and track at Pelahatchie High School, where he won numerous tournament and conference championships, including the Overall State Championship in girls basketball in 1969, and was named the Mississippi Association of Coaches Basketball Coach of the Year that year. He went on to coach boys and girls basketball at Brandon High School, where both teams were South Mississippi Class A Champions in 1972. He took over the girls basketball program at Pearl High School in 1977 until his retirement in 1987. In his 27 years as head coach, he holds the overall Mississippi High School record of winningest boys and girls coach with 535 wins and 224 losses, a 71% winning percentage.

Britt is married to Bobbie Russell Britt and they have two children, Russell of Norfolk, Virginia, and Bobbie of Brandon, and five grandchildren.

Earl Coleman

Coleman was a 1961 graduate of Co-Lin, where he lettered in football. After Co-Lin, he played football at Delta State University, where he was named an All-American. He worked for Allied Chemicals and First Mississippi Corporation before his retirement in 2003. He also specialized in obedience training for police dogs and received numerous awards for his work. Coleman had one daughter, Kristy McKnight and two grandchildren. He passed away in September.

Mindy Livaudais

Livaudais of New Orleans, Louisiana, is a 2002 graduate of Co-Lin, where she led the woman's basketball team to a MACJC state championship and the NJCAA Region 23 championship her sophomore year. She was named MACJC First Team All-State, NJCAA All Region 23 and NJCAA Honorable Mention All-American her freshman year, and was MACJC and NJCAA Region 23 First Team All-State, and NJCAA All-Region and All-Tournament her sophomore year, averaging 15 points per game both years she played for the Lady Wolves. After Co-Lin, Livaudais signed with the University of Louisiana-Monroe where she was a leading scorer and received a bachelor's degree in education. She works as the banquet manager at Compass Point Events in New Orleans.

Steve Sasser

Sasser is a 1975 graduate of Co-Lin, where he lettered in baseball and was named MACJC First Team All-State. After Co-Lin, he played for William Carey University, where he was named All-Region in 1978 and received a bachelor's degree. He was a teacher and coach at Parklane Academy for five years and worked in sales and healthcare for 14 years

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Alumni Association | Outstanding Faculty & Staff

The Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association recognized six outstanding faculty and staff members during the annual fall convocation on the Wesson Campus and again at Homecoming. Those honored from the Wesson campus were Eddie Britt, Deborah Barnes, and Samantha Speeg, all of Brookhaven, and Beverly Jones of Union Church. Jan Swoveland of Natchez was the Natchez Campus honoree, and Jason Cooley of Mendenhall was recognized for the Simpson County Center.

Eddie Britt

Britt was honored as Outstanding Academic Instructor on the Wesson campus. He has been employed at Co-Lin since 2004 where he serves as a mathematics instructor and is chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Division. He received an associate's degree from Co-Lin, and bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education from Mississippi State University. Prior to Co-Lin, he was a math teacher and coach at Farmerville High School and Loyd Star Attendance Center.

Britt serves as the sponsor for Mu Alpha Theta, the national Mathematics honor society, and is involved in numerous professional associations, such as the Mississippi Collegiate Mathematics Association, in which he serves as president. He is a recipient of the Howell Garner High Performance Award and a Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar. He is married to Gina Britt, and they have a five-year-old daughter, Emory.

Deborah Barnes and Beverly Jones

Barnes and Jones were recognized as Outstanding Career/Technical Instructors for the Wesson Campus. Both serve as instructors and coordinators in the Cosmetology program. Barnes received an associate's degree in cosmetology at Hinds Community College. Prior to Co-Lin, she was a cosmetology instructor at Southwest Community College. She is a member of the Mississippi Cosmetology School Association, School Owners and Teachers Association, and Abundant Life Church. She is also owner of her own salon in Brookhaven. She and her husband Johnny are parents to three children, Adrienne, Christen, and Alexander, and one grandchild.

Jones received an associate's degree in cosmetology at Co-Lin. Prior to Co-Lin, she was owner of her own salon in Caseyville for 25 years. She's a member of the Mississippi Cosmetology School Association and Union Church Baptist Church. She is married to Bill Jones, and has one daughter, Hope Case.

Samantha Speeg

Speeg was honored as Outstanding Staff Member of the Year at the Wesson campus. She has been employed at Co-Lin since 2009 where she serves as an academic counselor. She received an associate's degree from Co-Lin, bachelor's degrees in mass communication and graphic design from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in higher education administration from Mississippi College.

From left, Jason Cooley, Jan Swoveland, Samantha Speeg, Deborah Barnes, Beverly Jones and Eddie Britt.

Prior to Co-Lin, Speeg was a graphic designer at Johnny Smith Photography, and she has also served as the college recruiter. She currently serves as co-advisor of Phi Theta Kappa. She was the 2016 recipient of the Ann Bradberry Award given by the Trailblazers, and has received numerous awards for various graphic design pieces. She is married to Adam Speeg, and they have three children, Julia, Eden, and John Daniel. They are members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Jan Swoveland

Swoveland was honored as Outstanding Faculty/Staff member for the Natchez campus. She has been employed at Co-Lin since 1999 as an English instructor. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi College.

Prior to Co-Lin, Swoveland taught middle school, junior high and high school English for 11 years. She is a member of numerous professional associations such as the National Council of Teachers of English and the state and national Two-Year English Associations. She has been recognized as a STAR teacher, a William Winter Scholar, and the Mississippi Humanities Council's Instructor of the Year, and received the Howell Garner High Performance Award. She is married to Joe Swoveland, and has two children, Carmichael and Keats.

Jason Cooley

Cooley was recognized as Outstanding Faculty/Staff Member for the Simpson County Center. He has been employed at Co-Lin since 2006 as a business and com-

(continued on page 16)

Alumni Association |

Hall of Fame & Stanley W. Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni Award

The Band and Colette chapter of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association inducted R. Shaw Furlow of Brookhaven into its Hall of Fame and honored Tyler Bridge of Brookhaven as the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni recipient during Homecoming festivities October 22.

Furlow

Bridge

Shaw Furlow

Furlow is a 1971 graduate of Co-Lin where he was a member of the Co-Lin Show Band and was a member of the first group of Sojourners on campus. After Co-Lin, he attended Delta State University, where he was the first male drum major in the marching band and received bachelor's and master's degrees in music education.

He served as director of bands at Co-Lin and as an instructor in the fine arts division for 16 years. He was director of the Sojourners for four years and was responsible for the revamping of the group from a show choir back to the rock band that it was when originally formed. While at Co-Lin, he served as president of the Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges Band Directors Association before his retirement in 2015.

He currently serves as band representative for Brookhaven Music and Sound and is active in the local music scene, both as a performer and promoter. He is the host and producer of the internet series "Music from the Shady Side," and organizes Brookhaven's annual music festival, Brookstock. He released an album of original songs in 2013 and produced the full-length movie, "Brookstock: The Documentary" in 2015. Furlow has directed plays with Brookhaven Little Theater, and writes a monthly arts column for the Wesson News. He has one son, Cole, who is also a musician and producer.

Tyler Bridge

Bridge is a 1998 graduate of Co-Lin where he was a member of the jazz bands and guitar ensemble, and participated in various other music ensembles.

He has been actively involved in the local music scene since he was in elementary school. He has worked in radio as an announcer and producer for WBKN and WCHJ in Brookhaven. He is the owner of Brookhaven Music and Sound where he offers private lessons in guitar, violin, voice, piano, and other instruments to students of all ages. He also works with band programs in the area to provide affordable beginner band instruments for students. He began a Kindermusic program at his store for pre-school children and holds a Rock Academy for school-age students during the summer.

Bridge has been instrumental in planning and performing in singer/songwriter events around the area including the Ole Brook Festival where he books all entertainment and manages the stage. He performs at churches, fundraisers, festivals, and events all around the state and has also assisted many local songwriters in writing lyrics and music for their own personal works. He serves as associate pastor of First United Methodist Church of Brookhaven and is a member of the Brookhaven Tourism Council. He and his wife, Kristi have one daughter, Lillie.

Members of the 2006 Golden Isles Bowl-winning football team held a 10-year reunion prior to the Sept. 29 game against East Central Community College. The group was recognized on the field during halftime.

Band and Colette Alumni Chapter Plans Princess Ball

The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter is sponsoring their fifth annual Princess Ball for fathers and daughters on Feb. 4 at the Thames Center on the Wesson campus.

The ball is open to fathers, grandfathers and father figures and girls ages 5-15. The event will be separated into two sessions, the first from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and the second from 8-10 p.m. Girls of any age can come to either session. Tickets to the event are $30 per couple and $10 for each additional child. The cost of the ticket includes refreshments and ballroom dance instruction. Dress for the event is formal, and photography will be available for an additional fee. Tickets are available at the alumni office and online at www.colin.ed/alumni. No tickets will be available at local banks this year.

The purpose of the event is to raise money to fund the Clyde Wilson scholarship for band and Colette students. Band and Colette Alumni Chapter past president and event organizer Mark Hamilton said the event is the first and best of its kind in the area, and not only will it be an opportunity for the organization to raise funds, but it is an opportunity for fathers and daughters to connect.

For more information, contact Hamilton at (601) 835-6607 or contact the alumni office at (601) 643-8313.

Class of 1966- The class of 1966 held its 50-year reunion on Friday, Oct. 21. Those attending are seated from left: Ronald Lee, Carla Donahoe Smelko, Diane Berry, Doreen Borgmann, Marie Lofton, Carolyn Clark, Linda Townsend, Sue Lea, Lola Case, Carolyn Smith, and Donnis Torgerson; Second row, from left: Gerald Wigington, Charlotte Carter, Linda Smith, Millie Helgeson, Sandra Hall, Ann Page Wilson, Wilton Townsend, Butch Dear, Max Lee, David Halle, David Campbell, Jearl Sasser, J.Ronny Smith, Danny Dykes, Nancy McGee, Tom Clark, Elizabeth Dickson, and Jack Warren. Back row: Rudie Smith and Earl Sasser.

Homecoming 2016

Homecoming 2016 was one to remember this year. The weather was perfect, and alumni and friends enjoyed returning to campus to see the newly completed pedestrian corridor, which enhances the beauty of campus. The annual Homecoming golf tournament sponsored by the baseball team was held on Friday, Oct. 21, followed by the annual president's reception held at the Mutton building on campus. This year's honored guests were Lifetime Members of the Alumni Association. Saturday's events began with the annual Homecoming 5K, followed by the induction of four new members into the college's Sports Hall of Fame. Members of the class of 2016 are David Britt, Earl Coleman (deceased), Mindy Livaudais, and Steve Sasser. The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter inducted Shaw Furlow into its Hall of Fame and recognized Tyler Bridge as the recipient of the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Over 280 alumni and friends attended the Alumni Association's annual awards luncheon. The Association honored Dr. James Ewing, Jr., and Diane Weaver Blankenhorn as the 2016 Alumni of the Year. Over 22 members of the Ewing family were in attendance and enjoyed returning to campus; many family members were able to see buildings named after Dr. James Ewing, Sr., and Maggie Flowers Ewing for the first time.

The annual tailgate party featured entertainment by the Sojourners as well as the Blue Wave Show Band and cheerleaders. Alumni and friends enjoyed gathering under tents around the new corridor and quad while children enjoyed food, games, bounce houses, face painting, and more. An impressive crowd gathered at Stone Stadium to support Homecoming Queen Katie Grace Culpepper and her court and to cheer on the Wolfpack in their win against Southwest.

Allen Kent and Craig Hennington, winners of the Homecoming golf tournament for the second consecutive year

President's Reception

Wesley and Louise Kent at the president's reception honoring lifetime alumni members.

Marilyn and Chuck Gilbert with Dr. George and Zoula Huffman at the president's reception

Dr. Ronnie and Rosie Nettles with Margaret Ewing Thomas (second from left), and Ellen and Dr. James Ewing.

Life alumni members Marie Lofton and Diane and Mike McIntyre

50th Reunion

Class of '66 members received their Golden Anniversary pins during the Homecoming luncheon.

Alumni Association president Brandi Hough and husband Trey

Class of '56 members enjoyed a reunion breakfast during Homecoming. Those attending were from left, Margaret Ewing Thomas, June Starnes, Jerry Rankin, Marie and Gene Farmer, Betty Crocker Abdo, and guest Charlotte Crocker Brown.

Members of the Class of 1964 gathered at Homecoming. Those attending were from left, Roscoe Ivy, Percy Lee Parker, Howard Brister, Audrey Smith, Glenda Morgan, Eleanor Burge, and Billy Boone.

Members of the High School Class of 1956 celebrated their 60th reunion during Homecoming. Those attending were (seated) Glen Beasley, Jim and Ann Cagle; (standing) James Nations, Alma and Wayne Kimble.

Overall Homecoming 5K winners, Kara Addison and Jonathan Mathis

Members of the Class of '86 enjoyed getting together during the Homecoming tailgate. Pictured from left (front row): Barry Tyson, Dee Dee Henning, Patty Perrot, Stacey Duke, Richard Baker; (back row): Stacey Herron, Lavonne Hamilton, and Mike McIntyre.

Members of the Co-Lin Choir led guests at the alumni luncheon in the Alma Mater. The group is led by choir director Christian Scott.

Butch and Janice Dear enjoying the Sojourners performance at the tailgate party.

Wolfpack cheerleaders sporting throw-back uniforms at the tailgate party.

Grady Smith (son of Clay and Carrie Smith) and Grant Hynum (son of Brandon and Jessica Hynum) hanging out at the tailgate party.

Pictured with 2016 Homecoming Queen Katie Grace Culpepper (center) are from left, freshman maids Markeda Batesaste, Warnesia Gaines, Madison Franklin, Carley May, Anna Babb, Alexsundria Thomas, Scout Algee, sophomore maids Tori Sullivan, Haley Turner, Haylee Smith, Makenzie Davis, Caitlin Cade, Taylor Spring, and Anna Beth Smith.

Homecoming Court

Members of the Ewing family at the Homecoming luncheon following the recognition of Dr. James Ewing, Jr., as Alumnus of the Year.

Foundation News | Foundation Receives Grant for Nursing Students

The Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation is the recipient of a $252,000 Hardy Wilson/Copiah County Medical Center Partner for Education Grant to be used for students in the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program at the college's Wesson campus and Simpson County Center.

Hardy Wilson received partial funding for a new hospital project through the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) program from the Urban Research Park subsidiary CDE XXVI, LLC. These funds are overseen by the Copiah County Public Benefit Corporation (CCPBC) board of directors, a related entity to the hospital formed to support the hospital and its community service efforts. One of the requirements of the NMTC and Urban Research Park is to award a charitable organization with a donation to provide career pathways for low-income community residents to obtain living wage jobs within fields of healthcare, science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM), STEM-focused youth development programs, or the expansion of health services to needy populations. The Co-Lin Foundation was nominated, and after a detailed application process, was awarded the full grant of $252,000.00.

The funds will be dispersed to LPN students over a three-year period. Students in the program will be eligible to receive funds from the grant to apply towards tuition, books, supplies, and living expenses. *(continued on next page)*

The Co-Lin Foundation received a $252,000 Hardy Wilson/Copiah County Medical Center Partner for Education Grant to be used for Practical Nursing students on the Wesson and Simpson campuses. On hand for the presentation were from left: Lloyd Pat Moreland, Sr., CCPCC director, Arthur L. Evans, Jr., CCPBC and Copiah County economic development director, Jackie Martin, Co-Lin dean of Career, Technical and Workforce Education, Ben Lott, Hardy Wilson chief executive officer, Dr. Ronnie Nettles, president of Co-Lin, Bryan Stevens, Hardy Wilson chief financial officer, D.J. Preiss, executive director of the Co-Lin Foundation, and Kelli Barfield, Hardy Wilson administrative assistant. (Not pictured: John Hall, CCPBC director)

You too can make a difference for Co-Lin.

Gifts from alumni and friends like you make a difference in the lives of students. Please consider supporting your college with a gift today.

"Please help to continue Co-Lin's legacy of providing an outstanding educational and student experience. Your gift can ensure that goal."

- Larry Greer ('67)
Co-Lin Foundation
Board President

Please don't wait. Do it now.

Yes! I want to support Co-Lin.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Enclosed is my gift of $_____ payable to Co-Lin Foundation

If you work for a matching gift company, which one_____

Please use my gift for:

____ Where it is most needed.

____ Add my gift to _____ Scholarship Fund

____ Use my gift for _____ (designate a sport, program or need)

The Co-Lin Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent of IRS regulations.

Co-Lin Foundation, P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191.

"We are very pleased to be a recipient of this grant and we believe it will have a positive impact on our students," Co-Lin president Dr. Ronnie Nettles said. "It also has the potential to significantly improve completion rates of our practical nursing students and in turn, the health care in this region."

Co-Lin dean of Career, Technical and Workforce Education Jackie Martin agrees. "Co-Lin provides wrap-around support services for our students to assist in reaching their education and career goals," Martin said. "These funds will directly assist with student retention in our practical nursing program by breaking down barriers that hinder student success and will produce an outcome to meet the workforce needs of our community in health care services."

The grant is one of the largest the Co-Lin Foundation has ever received that is designated specifically for student scholarships. Currently, the Foundation manages assets of more than $8 million and awards approximately $200,000 in scholarships to more than 150 students annually.

"This is yet another example of how community partnerships can directly benefit our students," D.J. Preiss, executive director of the Co-Lin Foundation said. "This grant is a transformative gift for the students in this program, many of whom, due to stringent program requirements, are unable to have outside employment."

Ben Lott, Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital chief executive officer and a registered nurse himself, is pleased with the hospital's role in providing support to Co-Lin nursing students. "I am happy that we were able to award this contribution and help provide career pathways within our own community," Lott said. "We are committed to service and transforming the health of our citizens. Part of that service is investing in our future caregivers."

Foundation Board Welcomes Coates

The Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation Board of Directors recently welcomed Joe Coates of Wesson to the board.

Coates is publisher of the Copiah County Courier newspaper in Hazlehurst. He attended Co-Lin in 1988 before transferring to Mississippi State University where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration.

He also serves on the board of directors for the Mississippi Press Association and the Wesson Athletic Foundation, and has served on the board and as president of the Hazlehurst Area Chamber of Commerce. He is an official for the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) and was named an All-Star Referee in basketball in 2008 and in football in 2015.

Coates is married to the former Karen Hood, and they have six children and five grandchildren.

DONATE ONLINE

Did you know that you can donate to the Co-Lin Foundation online at www.colin.edu/foundation?

MAKE YOUR GIFT COUNT TODAY!

The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter recently donated funds to purchase three new marching baritones for the Blue Wave Show Band. Pictured are from left, Foundation executive director D.J. Preiss, Band Director Juanita Proffitt, students Joseph Campbell, Luke Jordan, and Leslie Smith, and Band and Colette Alumni Chapter president Jerry Wilkinson.

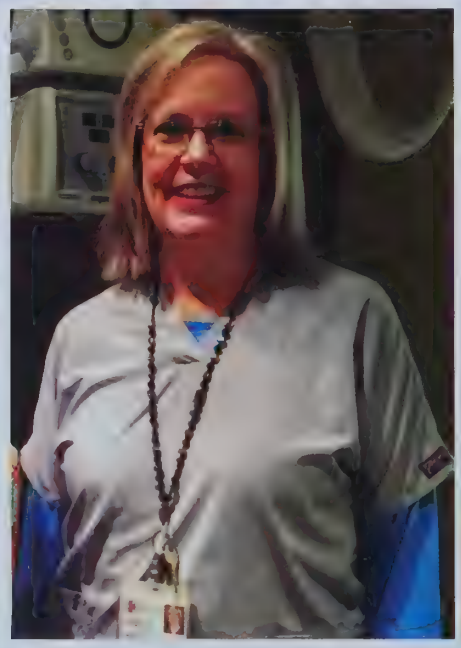
Career Tech Graduates Excelling in the Workforce

by Angela Furr

Career and Technical programs at Co-Lin and across the nation are producing skilled workers who are able to immediately enter the workforce after graduation.

In a world of uncertainty when it comes to employment for university grads, the assurance of a job is a huge selling point of Career and Technical Education (CTE). CTE is slowly overcoming the long-held stigma as the alternate route to college for students who can't make it in a four-year program. Today's career and technical programs are competitive and challenging, and graduates are leading the workforce in our state. Here are just a few examples of Co-Lin CTE alumni who are some of the best in their fields.

Kelly Smith of Wesson is a 1989 graduate of the Medical Radiologic Technology program. She serves as director of the radiology department at Kings Daughters Medical Center in Brookhaven. She has been employed at the hospital for 27 years, beginning work while she was still a student in the program at Co-Lin.



"It was such a blessing to get my foot in the door at the hospital while I was finishing school," Smith said. "I've worn many hats over the years at Kings Daughters, from working the night shift, to working in surgery, to performing mammograms. Co-Lin helped prepare me for the job."

In her role as manager of her department at KDMC, Smith is responsible for hiring new employees and says about 95% of her staff are Co-Lin graduates. She serves on the radiography advisory committee at the college, and enjoys working with Co-Lin instructors on selecting students for the program as well as advising instructors of changes in the field.

Smith has been married to her husband John for 26 years, and they have two children, Joey, a high school senior who plans to attend Co-Lin next fall, and Suzanna, age 12.

Patrick Brown of Brookhaven is a 2004 graduate of the Computer Information Systems Technology program on the Wesson campus. He serves as technology coordinator at Mississippi School of the Arts in Brookhaven where he is responsible for all areas of technology for the school, from managing desktops to handling two separate networks, as well as wireless technology, applications, and web management. Prior to the arts school, he worked in technology for the Lincoln County School District (LCSD) for 14 years.

Like Smith, Brown also started working while in school. He began his career with the LCSD the summer before his senior year and continued during his time at Co-Lin as part of the college's Work-Based Learning program. He says the hands-on training was crucial to learning in his local-area networking program.

"I took what I learned in the field back to the classroom, and

from the classroom into the field," Brown said. "It was a collaborative effort."

Brown said he knew he wanted to study in the career/technical division because he was more interested in hands-on learning and training. "Sitting in a classroom won't give you all you need to know," he said.

While at Co-Lin, Brown was a member of Phi Beta Lambda, the two-year honor society for business and technology students. He said PBL helped him develop life-long skills that helped further his career.

Since his graduation, Brown has been involved with Co-Lin and the Alumni Association, serving as president in 2012. He has also served as the voice of the Wolfpack for the past nine years, managing the public address at all home basketball games. In his spare time, Brown enjoys photography and working with the youth at his church.

Grecian Barnett of Mendenhall is a 2005 graduate of the Cosmetology program. She is the owner of Grecian's Hair Salon in Mendenhall, specializing in haircuts and color, as well as styling for pageants, proms, and weddings. She employs three other stylists, one of which is also a Co-Lin graduate.

Barnett knew she had a passion for doing hair back in high school, however, to appease her parents, she began taking academic courses at Co-Lin, completing an associate's degree. While a student at Co-Lin, she was a cheerleader and a member of the choir and Sojourners. She was selected as a freshman maid and Homecoming Queen. After completing her academic courses, she entered the Cosmetology program to pursue her career.

"I fell in love with Co-Lin," Barnett said. "My instructors in the cosmetology program more than prepared me to go right to work after graduation."

Barnett said in addition to the hands-on training she gained from her instructors and clients in the lab school, she was able to attend hair shows with her classmates that enabled them to learn about new products, styles, and techniques.

Through her work with pageant participants, Barnett was encouraged to compete in the Mississippi Universal Miss pageant in 2015 where she won her division and went on to represent the state at the World Universal Miss competition, which she also won. She has traveled all over the world doing appearances, and remains involved with the pageant system doing hair all over the United States.

Steve West of Meadville is a 1978 graduate of the Welding program at Co-Lin. He has been employed at American Railcar Industries for 37 years, and has served as plant manager for 25 years. He began at the Bude location and spent 12 years there before moving to start the New Orleans plant and then another in Georgia, where he spent the last 24 years. He recently moved back to the area to start up a plant in Brookhaven.

West said the field was competitive when he graduated from Co-Lin, but being able to participate in the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA; now known as Skills USA) competition was instrumental in helping him obtain a job.

"There were several people going for the same job as me when I first graduated," West said. "Being a Co-Lin graduate and having won the VICA competition helped me get the job over the other candidates."

West said his instructor Bruce Irvin was also helpful in finding employment. Today, West hopes to provide that same help to new graduates. He served on an advisory committee for the local community college welding program in Georgia, and recently joined the committee at Co-Lin, where he will work with instructors to keep the welding curriculum up to date with industry standards.

West has been married to the former Melissa Aldridge for 37 years and they have one son and daughter-in-law.

Alumni Spotlight

Robert Williams ('97) is the superintendent of the Hattiesburg School District (HSD). Williams has worked in the Hattiesburg Public School System for over 14 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Southern Mississippi, a master's degree in elementary education from William Carey College, and a specialist degree in education administration, and a Ph.D. in education administration and supervision from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Prior to his appointment as interim superintendent at HSD, Williams served as principal of N.R. Burger Middle School. He was selected as Hattiesburg Public School District Administrator of the Year (2011-2012 and 2015-2016). Additionally, he represented Mississippi Congressional District Four as finalist for Mississippi Administrator of the Year.

He is married to Angela Givens Williams, an Assistant United States Attorney with Office of the United States Attorney, Southern District of Mississippi. They are the parents of Anna-Grace Williams and Louis Alexander Williams.

Outstanding Faculty *(continued from page 5)*

puter science instructor. He received an associate's degree from Meridian Community College, an associate of applied science degree from Jones County Junior College, a bachelor's degree from Troy University, and an MBA from Mississippi State University.

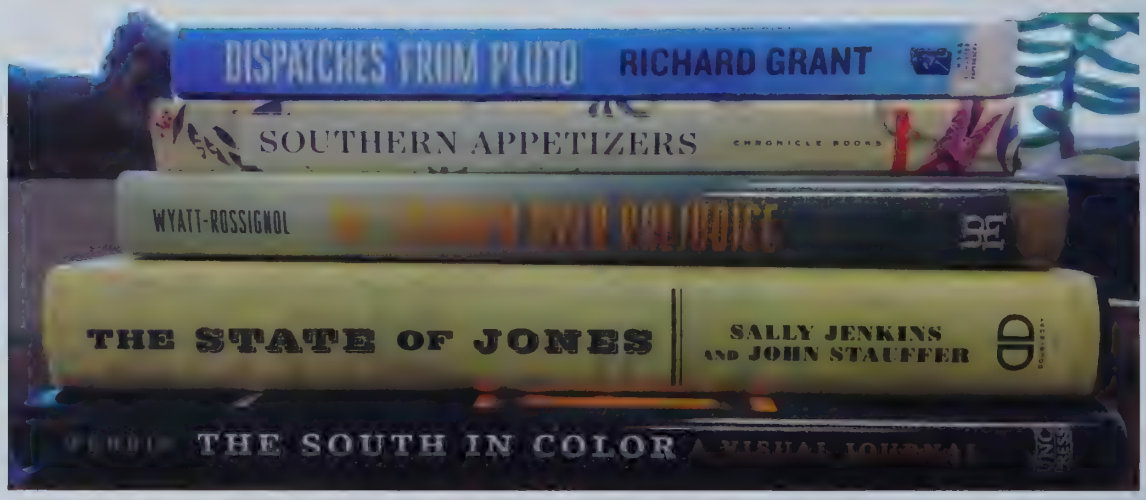
Prior to Co-Lin, Cooley was employed at Arch Wireless and Computer Sciences Corporation. He is a recipient of the Howell Garner High Performance Award and is active in the Methodist Church. He is married to Joanna Cooley, and they have one daughter, McLeland.

Sports Hall of Fame *(continued from page 4)*

before returning to education. He worked for Lincoln County Public Schools from 1998-2011, and then returned to Parklane where he teaches history and coaches fast-pitch softball, leading the team to a state championship in 2015.

He is involved in the Miracle League and is a member of the Mississippi Association of Coaches and Mississippi Professional Educators, and serves as a deacon at Montgomery Baptist Church. He is married to Belinda Sasser, and they have two children, Heather Gault and Stephen Scott Sasser ('06), and two grandchildren.

The Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration



Mississippi: A Literary Journey

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Join us in honoring the state in her bicentennial year. February 23, 24 & 25, 2017

Alumni Making a Difference in Africa | by Angela Furr

Before Francis K. Horton, III ('82) traveled all over the world as a missionary and humanitarian, he practically grew up on the campus of Co-Lin. His father, the late F. K. Horton, Jr., and mother Lucile both worked at Co-Lin as business manager and child care supervisor, respectively. The younger Horton attended Co-Lin Agricultural High School while it was a part of the college campus the first three years of his high school education, and spent his senior year at the newly constructed Wesson High School. He returned to Co-Lin for college where he was a member of numerous campus organizations and was selected for the college's Hall of Fame. It was at Co-Lin that he met his wife, the former Angie Hart ('82) from the Loyd Star community.

After Co-Lin, Horton received a bachelor's degree in computer science from Mississippi State University and a juris doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law. He worked as a staff attorney for the Department of Justice in Jackson for seven years before joining the International Mission Board, where he served as strategy and disaster response coordinator, serving in Pakistan and Thailand. In 2007 he took a position with Baptist Global Response (BGR) as Area Director for Central and South Asia. Basing out of India, Singapore and then Turkey, he covered 16 countries with the Southern Baptist nonprofit relief and development organization, from Turkey to Bangladesh.

Following his retirement from BGR in 2015, Horton currently serves as regional director for West Africa for Samaritan's Purse in Boone, North Carolina. The Franklin Graham-led, nondenominational Christian organization meets needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine world-wide. Horton handles oversight of three country offices in West Africa, conducting relief efforts following natural and man-made disasters. Activities include providing income-generation activities for widows, emergency food and shelter, healthcare, and agricultural initiative. All is done in Jesus name.

"I work in the International Projects department of Samaritan's Purse and our efforts cover a fairly broad spectrum," Horton said. "We have 16 country offices around the world that do all types of relief work."

After spending almost 20 years living and working all over the world, Horton is currently back in the States, working from Samaritan's Purse International Headquarters in Boone. However, he still spends about a third of his time in West Africa.

"Spending time with our teams in the field helps me keep in mind what this is all about – getting help to people who need it."

When he's not assisting families in Africa, Horton enjoys spending time with his own family. He and his wife of 32 years are the parents of four grown children, Kennedy, Katy, Kelsey, and Konner, and four grandsons.

When Horton visits his mother, who still lives in Wesson, he enjoys passing through Co-Lin's campus on his trips back home. "Co-Lin was good for me," Horton said. "It was small enough that you knew everyone, but big enough to find opportunities to be involved in a number of things that prepared me for the future. "

Brittany Clark ('11) of Wesson is planning a trip to Uganda this month to shine a light on young mothers and daughters who are illiterate, abused and unskilled. Clark will travel to the community of Kasaali, Uganda to train teachers at The Glow Effect Centre for Women and Girls. The group's mission is to empower the women of the underprivileged community and to teach them marketable skills.

A former Miss Co-Lin and president of Phi Beta Lambda and the Student Government Association, Clark is a 2014 graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in business administration. She left her job as a financial planner to do something that she describes as "bigger than herself." She hopes to bring her skills and experiences in Uganda back to Mississippi to create the same type of program for women and girls at home. You can follow Clark's travels on Facebook and Instagram @britneylclark.

Where are they now?

Joseph "Joe" Yates ('71), Alise Blackwell Acker ('93), and Alexya Irvin ('02) all made an impact on their classmates and instructors during their days at Co-Lin. Here's what they're up to today:

Joe Yates of Alabaster, Alabama was a student leader during his time at Co-Lin, serving as president of the Student Government Association and the Baptist Student Union, and as a disc jockey for the WWCL campus radio station. A native of Sontag, he was selected as Mr. Co-Lin and was named to the Hall of Fame.

Yates then

Yates today

After Co-Lin, Yates attended the University of Southern Mississippi. He served as senior vice president of BBVA Compass Bank in Birmingham before his retirement last year. He and his wife of 42 years, Janice, are parents of a son, Robbie, and two grandsons. In his retirement, he enjoys golf, fishing and restoring antiques.

"Co-Lin was one of the best times in my life," Yates said. "It was my first time living away from home and making new friends that I had not known all of my life."

Alise Blackwell Acker of Columbus did a little of everything while a student at Co-Lin. She was a Colette her freshman year, a cheerleader her sophomore year, and a member of the choir and Sojourners, Phi Theta Kappa, Trailblazers, and president's council. She was selected as a Homecoming maid her freshman and sophomore years and to the Co-Lin Hall of Fame.

After Co-Lin, she received a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in Christian studies from Mississippi College. Today, she is a personal trainer and group exercise instructor at The Fitness Factor in Columbus. She and her husband John have three children, Mary, 18; Eli, 15; and Anna, 15.

Acker then

Acker today

Acker said a favorite Co-Lin memory was visiting with Dean Ray Ishee, Pat Young, and David Smith in Student Services daily with her friends.

"Co-Lin was much like a small community of family and friends," Acker said. "I enjoyed the small classes. The professors and staff were very personable and always available to help students in any way."

Alexya Irvin of Brookhaven was a scholar athlete at Co-Lin. She was a member of the Lady Wolves championship basketball team and also served as a student trainer for the football team. After Co-Lin, she received a bachelor's degree in information technology from the University of Southern Mississippi, a master's degree in teaching from Jackson State University, and a specialist degree in school counseling.

Today, she is a guidance counselor at Mamie Martin Elementary School in Brookhaven. Prior to Mamie Martin, she worked as an assistant basketball and track coach and taught English at North Pike High School and was a guidance counselor at Amite County Elementary School.

Irvin then

Irvin today

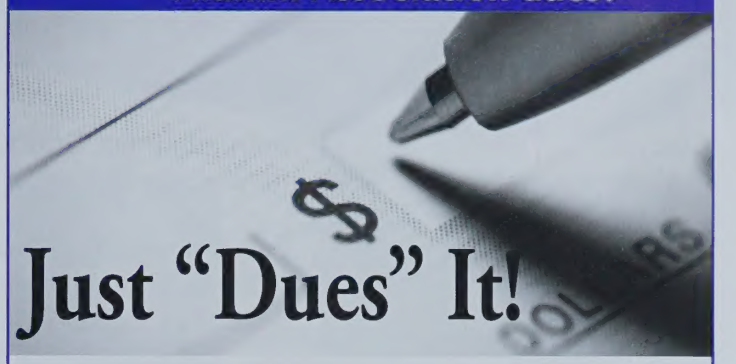
She is a member of Mississippi Counselor's Association and an affiliate with National Alliance on Mental Illness, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and East Fernwood Missionary Baptist Church in McComb.

"Co-Lin was definitely the place to be for me," Irvin said. "I made lifetime friendships and mentors like Coach Gwyn Young. He stressed the importance of education and success in all aspects of life, not just basketball."

To submit alumni for "Where are they now?" contact Angela Furr at (601) 643-8498 or email angela.furr@colin.edu.

The Alumni Association held its first Thursday night tailgate on Sept. 22 prior to the home game against Jones County Junior College. Members of the alumni association were able to enjoy pulled pork plates provided by Farm Bureau.

Haven't paid your Co-Lin Alumni Association dues?



Please consider investing $25 for an individual,

$40 for a couple or $250 for a life-time membership.

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Online payment options are now available at www.colin.edu/alumni.

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Amount Enclosed $_____Payable to Co-Lin Alumni Association (visit www.colin.edu/alumni to pay by credit card)

Please mail to Co-Lin Alumni Association, P. O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191

tracking the classes

Congratulations

Hyde-Smith

Cindy Hyde-Smith ('79) on being named Co-Chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the Donald Trump presidential campaign.

Thomas

Randy Thomas ('96) on being selected to the SEC Legends Team.

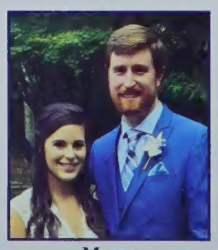
Candice McDuffey ('12) on being named the girls' head basketball coach at Wesson Attendance Center.

Dana Sartin ('14) on being selected for the Graduate Student Council as Senator at the University of Mississippi.

Marissa Westrope ('15) on being selected for the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Dentist Scholarship Program.

Greta Carley ('16) on receiving the Lyceum Scholarship at the University of Mississippi.

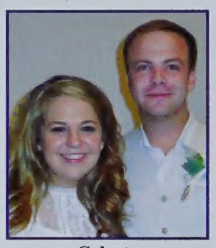
Wedding Bells


Magee

Brandon Bowman ('00) married Nicole Benz on November 5, 2016.

Chase Magee ('04) married Jordan Gray on September 16, 2016.

Pedro Aguilar ('06) married Whitney Simmons on August 13, 2016.


Calcote

Grant Calcote ('09, '13) married **Savannah Cox** ('12, '15) on October 9, 2016.

Megan Hynum ('10) married Justin Taylor on October 1, 2016.

Brooke Wilson ('12) married **Samuel Ballard** ('13) on May 21, 2016.

Evan Lawrence ('12) married Glenda Williams on September 3,2016.

Quinten Barlow ('12) married **Tiffany Wages** (attended) on October 15, 2016.

Lane Stephens ('12) married Rebekah Smith on November 5, 2016.

Callie Hudson ('13) married Phillip Douglas on September 10, 2016.

Kathleen Bass ('13) married **John Brooks** (attended) on October 8, 2016.

Kacie Berry ('14,'15) married **Bryce Guess** (attended) on October 1, 2016.

Brittany Davis ('14) married

In Memoriam

Gregg

Ethel Ruth Gregg ('39) passed away on August 28, 2016.

John R. Ward ('47) passed away on September 13, 2016. He was a member of the Sports Hall of Fame.

Earl Coleman ('61) passed away on September 26, 2016. He was inducted into the 2016 Sports Hall of Fame at Homecoming.

Ward

Annette Leggett Sasser ('64), wife of Board of Trustee and Foundation Board Member Tommy Sasser, passed away September 16, 2016.

John Royce Case ('68) passed away on September 1, 2016.

Michael Pope ('87) passed away on August 1, 2016.

Coleman

Chase Justin Channell (was attending) passed away on August 21, 2016.

Eddie Jake Smith (was attending) passed away on October 8, 2016.

Elaine E. McCarty (attended) passed away August 25, 2016.

Smith

Eula W. Pierce (attended) passed away on September 2, 2016.

Rhonda Mayhugh (attended) passed away on September 3, 2016.

Lt. Col. William Ellis Bell (attended) passed away on September 6, 2016.

Bernie Frank Williams (attended) passed away on October 2, 2016.

Riley

Enoch L. "Doby" Nunnery (attended) passed away on October 9, 2016.

Buell Roscoe "Rusty" Carty (Co-Lin High School Graduate) passed away August 30, 2016.

Jacy Lee Riley (attended) passed away on October 10, 2016.

Case

Richard Grant Case, Jr. (attended) passed away on October 27, 2016.

Mary Louise Landress (former Co-Lin High School instructor) passed away on August 11, 2016.

tracking the classes

Jake Russell (attended) on October 15, 2016.

LeAnna Myers ('15) married **Trey Gennaro** (attended) on October 8, 2016.

Matthew Lambert ('15) married Kelsey Wells on October 22, 2016.

Kimberly McNeese ('15) married **Corey Jones** (attended) on October 22, 2016.

Jones

Alyssa Smith ('16) married Zachary Farnham on August 6, 2016.

New Arrivals

Jarod ('98) and Katie **Amos** are proud parents of Korben Allen, born on July 8, 2016.

Amos

Justin ('99) and **Brandi** ('99) **Smith** are the proud parents of Parker Jase, born May 4, 2016. Proud aunts are **Angela Smith**, Science instructor on the Wesson Campus and **Dr. Shelley Smith**, Colette Director.

Smith

Erin ('03) and Jason **Frazier** are proud parents of Price Corbin, born Nov. 12, 2016.

Frazier

Quincy ('07) and **Rosetta** ('12) **Futrell** are proud parents of Caleb Elisha, born on December 27, 2015.

Leah ('04) and John **Glenn** are proud parents of John Samuel, born on August 30, 2016. Proud grandparents are Stephen and **Natalie Davis**. Natalie is the Director of Public Information/Sports Information.

Glenn

Craig ('05) and Kilee **Smith** are proud parents of Jaxson Smith, born on July 26, 2016.

Tiffany and Alfred **Perryman** are proud parents of Kaylee Brooke, born on October 13, 2016. Tiffany is an instructor in the Business Office Technology Program on the Wesson Campus.

Kristina and Rod **Stephens** are proud parents of Matthew Daylan, born on October 10, 2016. Kristina is the Workforce Secretary of the Wesson Campus.

Corey (attended) and **Courtney** ('03) **Myers** are proud parents of William Alan, born on November 30, 2016. Courtney is a former secretary for the office of the Foundation and Alumni Affairs.

Myers

Jud and **Marxy** ('07) **Lindsey** are proud parents of Ada Bryce, born December 5, 2016.

Lindsey

Zak and **Adrienne Sanders** ('09) are proud parents of Adley Hart, born November 30. 2016

Sanders

Keith and Teresa **Stovall** are proud parents of Campbell Watts, born November 13, 2016. Keith is a social science instructor on the Wesson campus.

Stovall

Send your alumni news and photos to Angela Furr, PO Box 649 Wesson, MS 39191 or e-mail to angela.furr@colin.edu. Please provide class year(s) and a phone number for verification.

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-Morgan Wallis,
Freshman Pre-Dental Major

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